

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

USAID capacity building project provides equipment

Four Macedonian institutions are being strengthened through the United States Agency for International Development's Human and Institutional Development Program. These include the Ministry of Justice, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, the Quality Control Laboratory and the State Education Inspectorate (SEI).

As part of a full package of interventions USAID is providing the SEI with portable computers. The goal is to bring SEI services up to European standards.

"Modern technology makes it faster and easier for everyone to know what's going on," said Dwaine Lee, USAID Education Office Director. "That's so relevant for the Education Inspectorate — an organization entrusted with making sure children and young people receive the best quality education and which must make sure its decisions are just, non-partisan and fair to all concerned."

Other interventions include strengthening the SEI's organizational and professional capacities through numerous trainings, technical assistance, and in-kind support. The initiatives have been tailored to help the Inspectorate as it fulfills its new mandate under the Law on Education Inspection, enacted in July 2005.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The USAID Human and Institutional Development Program goal is to improve the performance of institutions deemed key to the future of the Republic of Macedonia. The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 25 projects worth \$25 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>